

Getting down to the right level for a friendly meeting with three little spastic children is Dr. Donald Gough, the Society's consultant psychiatrist, when he visited a special help weekend for the youngsters and their parents at the Family Services Centre, London. More pictures and story on back page.



### Meeting with "man of compassion"

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Social Services, bends down to talk to four-year-old Michaelle Young when he toured the new Phoenix Day Centre for spastic children at Farnborough, Kent, after performing the official opening ceremony.

And the picture sums up the tribute paid by Mr. James Loring, Director of the Society, at the ceremony. He said that Sir Keith combined "qualities of integrity, high intelligence, great ability, and human compassion, and that he possesses these qualities to a rare extent in a politician." (More pictures and story about the Phoenix Centre on Page 9).

Sir Keith will give the address at The Spastics Society's 20th annual general meeting which will be held on Saturday, November 4th, at the Royal College of Surgeons, London.

### Duchess will honour Princess Marina at naming ceremony

HRH The Duchess of Kent, Patron of The Spastics Society, will visit Ponds Home at Seer Green, Bucks., on November 30th, for a very special naming ceremony.

The home for 57 adult spastics will be named The Princess Marina Centre, in memory of H.R.H. the late Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, who as Royal Patron of the Society, had a deep and personal interest in the centre and its residents.

Opened in 1955, the centre was one of the first pioneering establishments for spastics in this country. It is a real "home" to the men and women who live there, who are always referred to as "the family."

They are proud that their centre will now provide a living memorial to the late Princess Marina, whose genuine concern for the needs of the handicapped earned her the love and esteem of everyone connected with the Society during her long association as Royal Patron.

### With a little help from on high...

THE following letter from a group of children in Hareforth, Lancashire was recently received in the Society's Appeals Department, together with a donation of £5.72. It said:

"We decided to have a

jumble sale to make money for you. We all went to our Council Offices to ask if we could have one, and where. They agreed with our idea and wished us luck. We collected for the sale that night and in the morning set up the large stall of clothes, easy chairs, toys, books, and even a radio.

"The stall was almost empty and we raised the money we set out to raise, with God helping us along.

"The old clothes which were left we gave to a rag and bone man for 60p. We hope that the sum of money will help somehow towards early diagnosis for spastics."

# spastics NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

NOVEMBER, 1972

New Series, Price 2½p

## A collector's life is such a happy one



### A vital job with real satisfaction

Being a "Top Ten" collector and helping to raise more than half The Spastics Society's annual income through the Spastics Pool certainly offers "job satisfaction" because it is so essential. Today Spastics News spotlights the work of the collectors of London, E.14, in a special article on pages 6 and 7, and the pictures here sum up the job with the family touch. Above: Mr. George Blanck collects from Mr. and Mrs. Henry Washalo, and below: Mr. George Hilsdon with members Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Watts and their children



### HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO SPASTICS NEWS?

WE know you like reading Spastics News, and we would hate you to miss your copy. But you might unless you renew your subscription. If we are to keep costs as low as possible on Spastics News we simply cannot afford to remind you when your subscription is due for renewal, but every week we receive letters saying "my paper hasn't arrived—why didn't you tell me that I was due to pay up again for another year?"

If we sent out renewal notices to thousands of individual subscribers, the cost in staff hours and postage alone would add up to a hefty sum. Money that could be put to much better use for the benefit of spastics.

We have kept Spastics News at a very low price by keeping all costs to a minimum. You can play your part too. Send 60p to the Circulation Clerk, Spastics News, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W1N 4EQ, and Spastics News will come to you by post every month for a year. That's not too much to ask is it?

## Yes, we do need a new Minister to care for the handicapped

A NEW approach to the problems of the disabled is needed, with responsibility for rehabilitation and employment fully co-ordinated under a single responsible Government Minister in charge of a Disablement Service, says a report published by the National Association for Mental Health.

Such an approach would be away with the present situation whereby responsibility for the work situation of disabled people is divided up between three departments — Health, Employment and the Home Office — as well as the various local authorities, leading to a fragmented and unco-ordinated service.

This fresh approach, says Mr. David Ennals, Director of the Association's Mind Campaign, must be the next stage in the struggle for a full and dignified life for the disabled.

The need for a unified service along these lines has been frequently put forward by The Spastics Society, which has repeatedly pressed for the appointment of a Minister for the Handicapped.

Other recommendations in the report include: grants or loans to help disabled people find work or become self-employed; financial inducements to firms willing to employ such people; and a disablement wage designed to raise a person's income at least to the level of the national minimum.



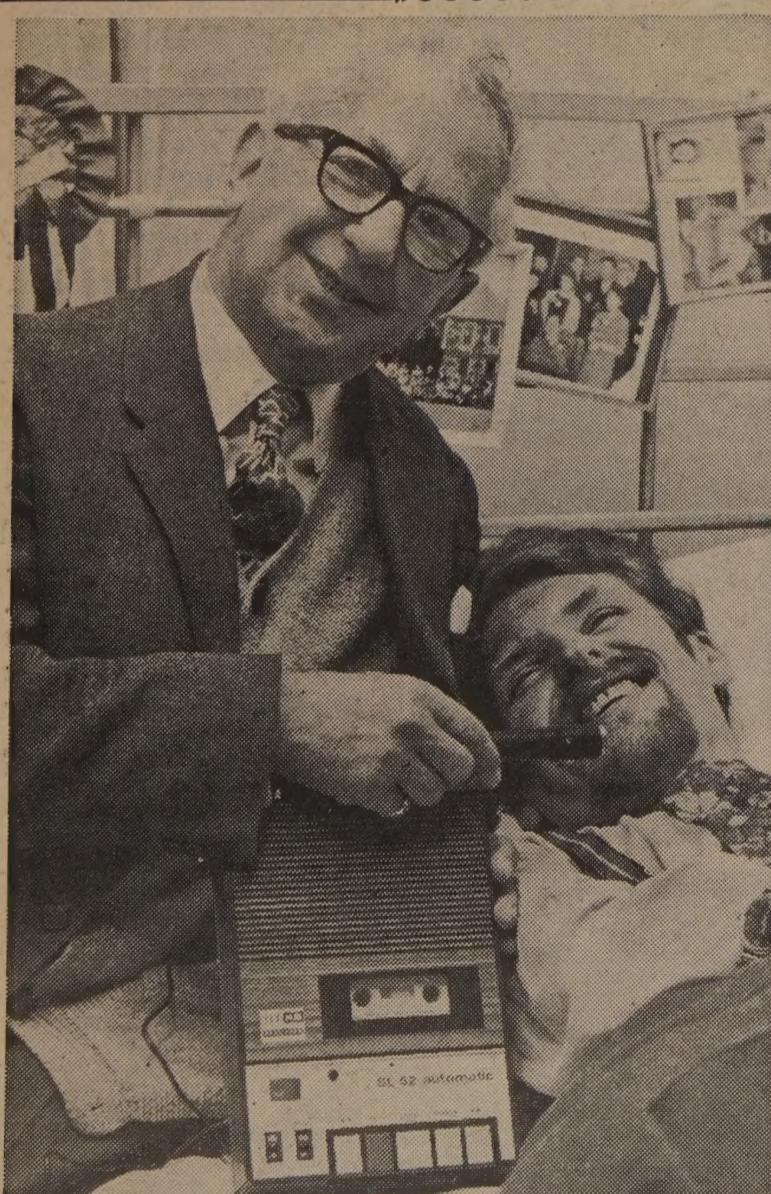
## New puzzle for the pubs

Carol Royle, secretary to the Editor of Spastics News is pictured with a Baffle Box—the latest in fund-raising ideas from the Society's Boxes and Beacons Department.

The boxes are designed to stand on pub counters and the idea is for customers to flick a 2p coin through one of the slots around the top edge.

Anybody whose coin falls into the winning tube is entitled to a free half-pint of beer. The odds against this happening were not divulged to Spastic News.

A number of baffle boxes are being tried out in selected pubs in a pilot scheme to find out how popular they are likely to be with the public.



Alan Broom, a spastic patient of St. John's Hospital, Peterborough, Northamptonshire, has recently been appointed press secretary of the local PHAB youth club (Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied to the uninitiated). To assist him in the task, the Peterborough & District Spastics Society has presented him with a

tape recorder and cassette player. This will enable Mr. Broom to record details of PHAB Club meetings and dictate his contributions to the club's forthcoming newsletter. Picture shows Mr. Joe Pearson, Chairman of Peterborough and District Spastics Society, presenting the tape recorder to Mr. Broom.

Picture by courtesy of Peterborough Evening Telegraph

## Chiltern House opens its welcoming doors

CHILTERN House, Hill Top Road, Oxford, the new Family Help Unit for severely handicapped adult spastics, welcomed its first guests on Monday, 23rd October. The principal aim of this new short stay home is to be a 'home' in the true sense of the word. Mrs. Mary James, the matron, says that she is anxious to avoid petty restrictions and any semblance of an institutionalised atmosphere.

Chiltern House was built at a cost of £53,000. This sum has already been raised by the combined efforts of the four local voluntary groups which nearly 10 years ago realised the dire need for such a unit in the area—the Oxfordshire Spastics Society, the Reading and Berkshire Spastics Society, the Slough and District Spastics Society, and the Wycombe and District Spastics Society. The groups are most appreciative of the wonderful response by the people of the three counties to the fund-raising appeal and describe it as a magnificent demonstration of community concern.

Purpose built and centrally heated, Chiltern House can accommodate eight severely handicapped adult spastics. For them it will provide a welcome change of environment, a chance to make new friends, expert care and attention and the comforting knowledge that their parents can have a well-earned rest. For the parents it will mean a short respite



from the daily burden of looking after a severely handicapped person, and the knowledge that their children are being cared for in surroundings specially designed to meet their needs and tended by a skilled staff which understands their problems.

PICTURE SHOWS THE MATRON, MRS. MARY JAMES, AT THE FRONT DOOR OF CHILTERN HOUSE.

## How we turn your bric-a-brac into £18,000 a year

THE Spastics Society's Unwanted Household Items scheme has now been running successfully for over three years. It started with one operator in the London area and has now expanded to cover three-quarters of England, with thirteen operators in action.

For readers who are unfamiliar with how the scheme works, I will explain the basically simple operation.

The Society operates on a franchise basis with its contractors, most of whom are already in the business of waste reclamation. They buy, sort, grade and resell rags, wearable clothing, metals, and anything else that turns up. The rags, which form the major part of their business, are sorted into their various types, such as woollens, cottons and synthetics. The woollens are by far the

tents and purposes, they do directly represent The Spastics Society. To help improve this we have now introduced a uniform to be worn by all collectors with a badge saying "Spastics Society Collector". In addition our contractors are required to use blue vans carrying official signboards.

### Image

We have had cases where non-authorised collectors have been collecting under the Society's name. This causes irreparable harm to the scheme and we have tried to overcome this by the uniforms, the standard collection vehicles, and by issuing all collectors with written authorisation. The new appeal leaflet which we are shortly to introduce will state that the official collectors conform to the above requirements.

Another problem has been that unauthorised persons have sometimes been collecting the filled bags before our own collectors have arrived.

We do, of course, realise that in some cases the U.H.I. collections do coincide with local voluntary group activities, and, whilst appreciating that the amount of unwanted items available nationally is vast and we are only tapping a very small percentage of the potential, we have instructed our contractors to inform local group secretaries of intended collections within their area. This is to avoid collections coinciding with a group's own door knock, jumble sale, or other event.

### Windfall

The majority of householders look upon the U.H.I. scheme as a very useful service indeed. It gives them an opportunity to clear out their unwanted goods and, at the same time, offers them the chance to directly help a charity. Indeed, we receive telephone calls daily from people asking us when we are coming round again as they wish to dispose of this, that or the other.

You may remember reading in Spastics News about one of our collectors who was sorting through a pile of clothes and found £370 in the pocket of a pair of men's trousers. This was immediately reported to the police and the story also appeared on regional television. This resulted in 690 bogus claims for the money being made to the local police station! Luckily for the Society, however, the real owner was never traced and, after the statutory period, the money was handed back to the Society.

### Appeal

Our operators are each allocated an area in which they are authorised to collect. They go about their collections by distributing door to door an appeal leaflet and a paper sack. The leaflet includes information about the work of the Society and asks the householders to fill the bag with unwanted clothes, books, blankets, linens, bric-a-brac and so on. The bags are collected the following day, taken back to the operator's depot, sorted, and later sold.

The Society benefits from this scheme by receiving an agreed percentage of the operator's net profit. This percentage can be as high as 60% and varies on a sliding scale basis according to the value from the sale of collections.

We have considered the possibility of the Society employing its own collectors, using its own vans, and doing its own sorting and selling to industry, instead of using outside operators. But it is doubtful if the same profit could be achieved as the expense of running 13 depots, the headache of employing and controlling an army of men and vehicles, to say nothing of the expertise required in the selling of collections, would be prohibitive.

We have at all times been conscious of the image which the collections project to the general public as, to all in-

In the last financial year the U.H.I. scheme raised £18,000 for the Society; and it is hoped that even more will come in in the future. In addition to the money, approximately three million leaflets distributed each year throughout the country means that we are bringing the name of the Society and the needs of spastics into three million homes. This must have an immeasurable benefit to our cause.

# Yet another big cash contest for Pool supporters

HOT on the heels of the first £50,000 competition which was based on the Motor Show comes the announcement of yet another exciting competition with big prizes for thousands of supporters of the Spastics Pool.

There will be TEN £1,000 cash prizes, TEN £500 cash prizes and TEN £250 cash prizes. Other prizes will be 2,000 spirit packs each containing one bottle of brandy, one bottle of Scotch and one bottle of gin, and 2,000 hampers, making this an outstandingly attractive competition.

In addition, the ten first prizewinners will be asked to nominate their favourite charities which will receive a total of £5,000.

Newspaper advertising of this event created a great deal of interest in the Spastics Pool and attracted a lot of new members, and in view of the volume of response there is already talk of a further competition early in the New Year. It is hoped that details will be available in time for the next issue of Spastics News, together with details of prizewinners in the Motor Show competition.



## Splashes from the Spastics pool



350 collectors and their guests attended a meeting in the Rooftop Restaurant in Nottingham. One of the highlights of the evening was the handing over of the keys of a Vauxhall Viva car and a bonus cheque for £25 to collectors No. 67/8 Mr. and Mrs. William Worrall of 74 Hollington Road, Aspley, Nottingham. Picture above shows Don Long making the presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Worrall.

## More "get-together" meetings

THE first of the autumn get-togethers organised by Top Ten Promotions took place at Derby on October 2nd and Nottingham on October 3rd.

Over 350 collectors and their guests went along to hear Director Don Long describe the achievements of the organisation and underline the important part collectors play in the whole operation. The benefits available to members and the charities that depend on the future expansion of the Pool were illustrated by film and slide presentations.

These meetings help to emphasise the human involvement from the moment a member enrolls, through the collector, supervisor and the staff at Westmorland House right up to the stage where money is passed on to the charities.

Picture right: Adrian Widgery (far right) of Top Ten Promotions welcomes Nottingham supervisors to the Roof-top Restaurant.



Above: Dickie Henderson, Chairman of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, congratulating Mr. K. Webber of Bere Alston in Devon, on winning over £2,022 on the first dividend. Presentation was arranged by area representative Mr. L. Eva, and took place at the Princess Theatre, Torquay.

Left: With a smile and a song Mrs. J. Clark of Polegate receives a cheque for £1,160.96 from the Batchelors at the Congress Theatre, Eastbourne.

Below left: Prizewinners on parade for Group Captain J. Burridge, C.O. of RAF Quedgeley, who presented Vauxhall Viva cars to Miss D. Wakefield and Miss D. Hayle. He was assisted by Mrs. Janet Andrews, "Miss Rank Xerox" and, third left, area representative of the Spastics Pool, Eric Watson.

Below: Taking a close look at the log books of their new Vauxhall Vivas are Mrs. H. Morris and Mr. James Witty. The presentation of keys and documents was made by Alderman Sir Leo Shultz, OBE, Leader of Hull City Council.



## The "Top Ten" collectors of London, E.14

Above: George Blancke is responsible for collecting from 900 members, and he's pictured above en route in the area of tower blocks and subways. And it's a job he loves.



Above: George Hilsdon makes a collection and delivers a bulletin to Mr. and Mrs. Derek Young and their family. Below: Mr. Blancke with long-standing Pool member Mrs. Vera Collins and her daughter Susan.

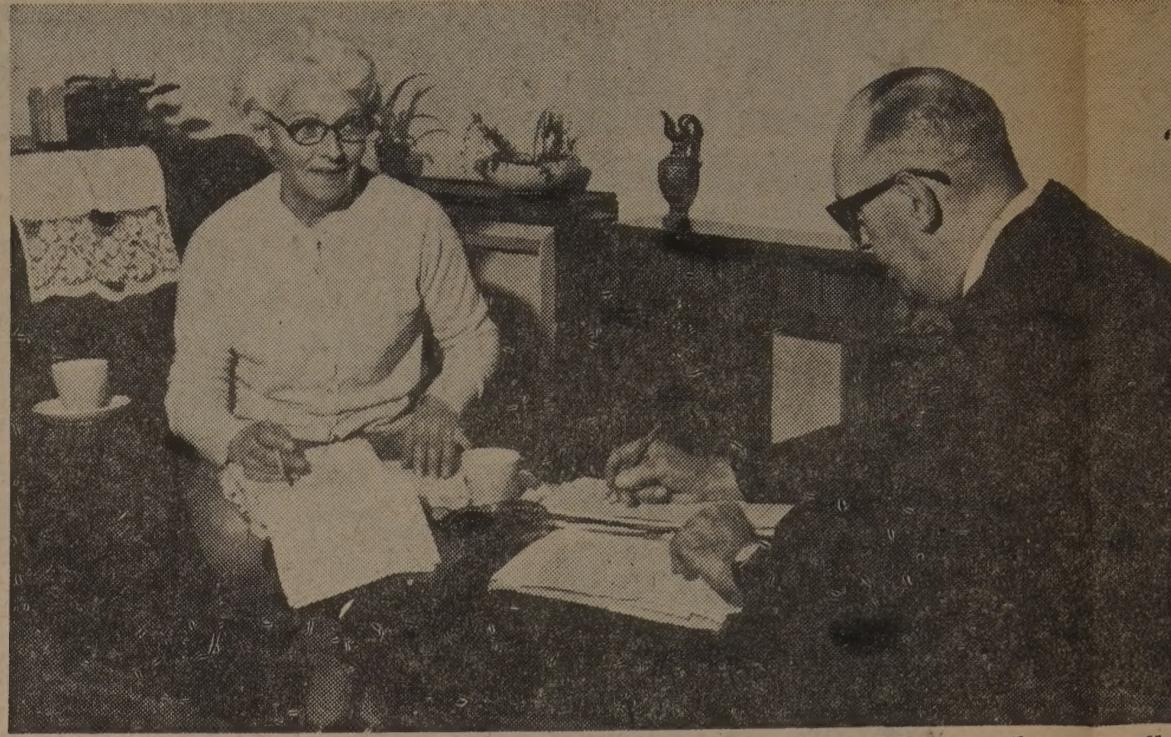


## Front-line troops in great national endeavour to help handicapped

There are 38,000 of them in the U.K., the men and women who are the collectors for Top Ten Promotions Ltd. This is the Charity Pools Organisation, based in Bristol, that provides The Spastics Society with more than half its income—around £35,000 a week. The collectors, backed by teams of canvassers who "drum up" more Pool members, are the backbone and the front-line troops of this organisation which in 15 years has raised £27,000,000 for charities.

An astronomical amount but it all boils down to a fairly simple sum: 3,000,000 members in the U.K. paying 8p. a week for their pools coupon = 24,000,000p. = £240,000 a week.

The weekly bulletin of the Spastic League Club regularly lists how this amount is distributed. For example, in the week ended September 23, 1972 the amount collected was £244,834.56. Of this, £34,976.37 went to charities (93 per cent of it to The Spastics Society). Pool betting duty accounted for £69,952.73, commission and expenses (of Top



Above: Mr. and Mrs. Norman Fry busy with their clerical work. Right: Collectors really get to know the families they visit, and here Mr. Hilsdon looks in on a game of draughts with Mrs. June Green and her spastic son Paul.

lady passed out on her doorstep. When she came round she said to my wife 'will you make me a cup of tea, dear?'

The majority of collectors, both nationally and in Mr. Fry's area, collect at their place of work. But there are thousands who tramp round from door to door and I met two of them — ex-docker George Blancke, and George Hilsdon who is a tally clerk in the docks. Both live in Poplar.

E.14 is a friendly place, full of friendly people. "If you're accepted here, you're accepted anywhere in the world" George Blancke told me.

He is in his 60th year, looks 10 years younger, and works now as a City Messenger. Stepney-born, he's a widower whose wife died six years ago, and he lives alone in a tower block. He's been a collector for 10 years and has 900

people will react, particularly the ladies," he said. "I usually tell them I've got some pleasant news and wait a bit to let it sink in before announcing their win. Even so, recently, one

£35,000 a week—it's a lot of money that brings help and hope to thousands of handicapped people and I visited the East End of London to see how some of it is collected.

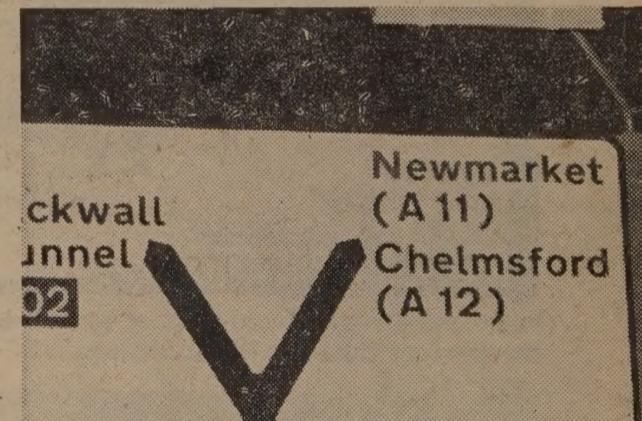
I started at the Plaistow home of ex-police sergeant Norman Fry. Mr. Fry, 58, who spent 26 years with the Force, is now London representative and a supervisor for "Top Ten".

His "manor" covers the postal district E.14—the Isle of Dogs area, and including Poplar, Cubitt Town and parts of Stepney. The supervisors scheme was started in 1960 to co-ordinate and streamline the work of the collectors. As London representative, he is responsible for queries, security, presentations and other organisational work.

His wife Dorothy, whom he first met when they were children in their native town of Lymington, Hampshire, helps him and the Society. On a recent flag day she took a barrel organ onto the streets to help bring in the cash, and she sometimes makes the presentations. One evening she handed over £7,000 worth of prizes.

Norman Fry has 22 part-time collectors who bring in about £300 a week. "They call it 'the lazy man's pool' because the members don't have to fill in coupons, or post them off, or claim their wins. It's all done for them" he said.

Over the years he's learned to be cautious as the bearer of good tidings. "You never know how



Supervisor Mr. Norman Fry discusses the busy collection area — one of London's busiest junctions with Mr. Hilsdon and Mr. Blancke.

by  
Spastics News  
Reporter

Ten Promotions Ltd.) £68,180.71, pool prizes £20,120.00 and members' benefits from associated schemes, £51,604.75

The amounts distributed out of the total sum are in accordance with the Rules and Conditions governing the competition.

It's important to have these details because it puts into perspective just what it means when a member makes the weekly 8p subscription to the collector, and when canvassers persuade more people to join the pool.

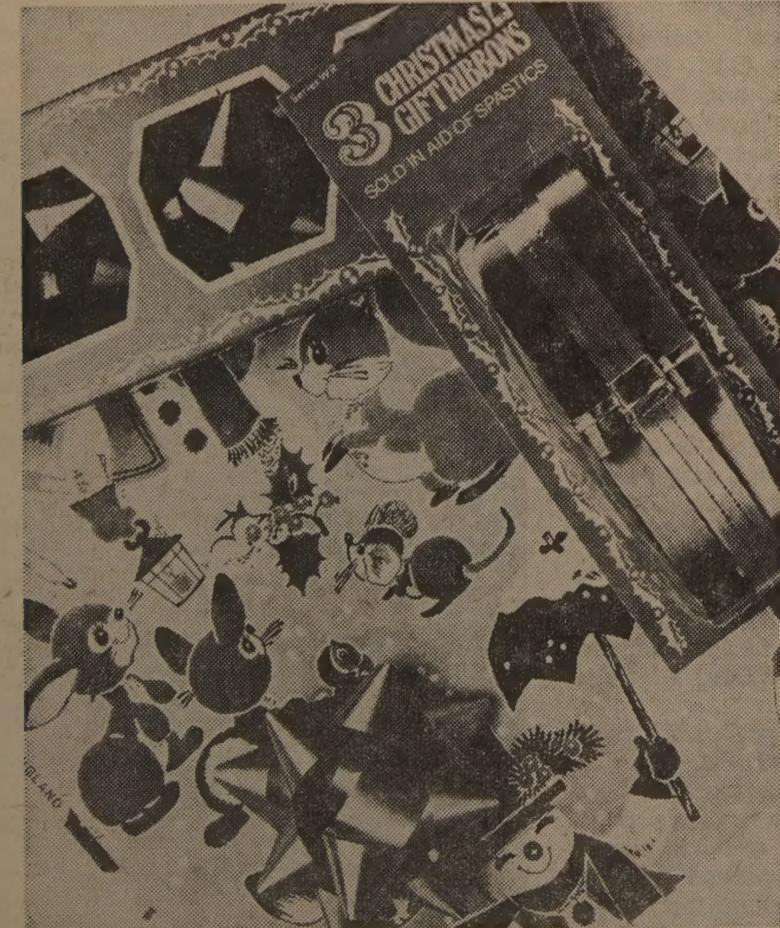
# How to send a charitable Christmas wish



"Holy Child" by the 15th century painter, Francesco Botticini, is one of the beautiful Old Master reproductions in the Fine Art range. Price 12p. each.



"The mail coach in a drift of snow" is from an engraving by James Pollard, and is the perfect card for the traditionalist. Price 12p.



Selection of attractive gift wrapping needs from the comprehensive catalogue. Six sheets of gay paper, 10p; 3 hanks of ribbon, gold, red and green; and 3 stick-on star bows. Both 10p a packet.

CHRISTMAS cards in aid of The Spastics Society are available in better quality and wider variety this year than ever before. Many of them—about 2 million in fact—are actually printed by Spastics. So don't forget these rather special cards when choosing your own cards. If you want them over-printed with your own name, address, and special greetings, well, that can be done too!

This year too there's a very wide range of Christmas gifts for all the family available in aid of spastics—with the terrific advantage that you can order them from a catalogue and cut out all that exhausting (and time-wasting) trail round the Christmas shops. Handsome books, jigsaw, framed old prints or floral pictures, kitchen ware, toys, you name it, we can come up with it. And here again, some of the gifts are actually made by spastics, so by buying them you are helping twice over.

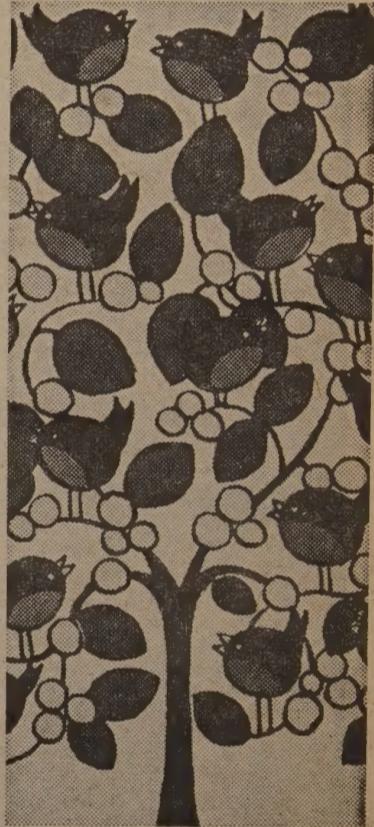
Many local Groups are getting together to put in a joint order to Spastics Cards Ltd., The Ridgeway, Iver, Bucks, who market the cards and gifts, or you can send your own individual order. Do make these goods known to your friends too. And order as early as you can, remembering that the last dates for Christmas posting will be upon you all too quickly!



Every taste, religious, traditional and contemporary—is catered for in the range from Spastics Cards Ltd. Here is a small selection, including many cards printed by spastics. Value is outstanding. You can, for instance, buy a box of ten assorted cards for only 15p, and a box of 25 cards for 50p.



One of the delightful Advent calendars available at 25p each. Children love opening the 24 windows throughout December. Other designs at 12p each. Picture, centre below, is one of the gay and distinctive cards which we would love to be able to show you in its full glowing colours. Everyone will like receiving the particularly cheerful robin, one of the 14 colourful designs in the Contemporary range. Price 25p for a packet of 6.



A detail from "Christmas Glee," 25p for six in the Contemporary selection.



"Winter Scene," a reproduction from an early 16th century Flemish picture costs 12p, and is in the Fine Art range.

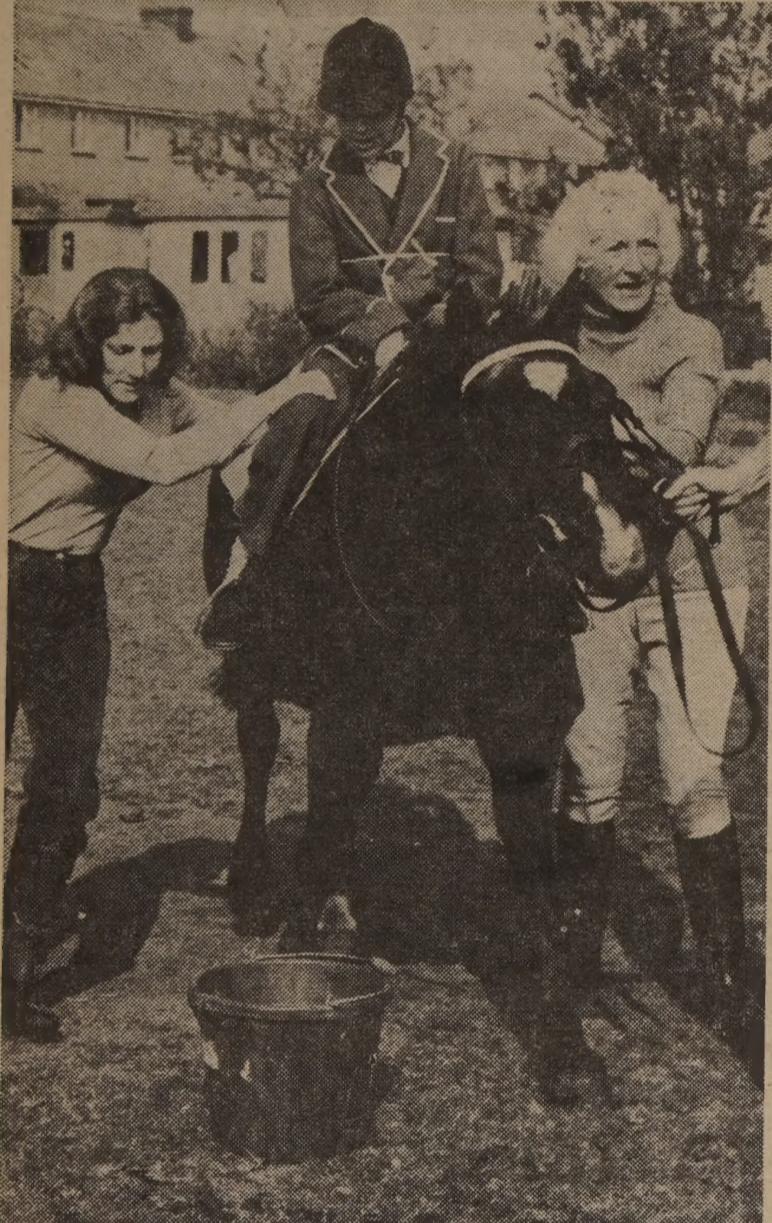
## They are tops in generosity too

THE generous pupils of Birchfield School for cerebral palsied children in Slough, Buckinghamshire, have decided to give away the colour TV which they won as first prize in a fund-raising contest organised by the Riding for The Disabled Association (see story in last month's Spastics News).

Birchfield already has a black and white television and as it is a day school, it was felt that the children would not get full benefit from another set.

Therefore the colour television has been passed on to Chiltern House, the Society's new short-stay home for severely-handicapped adults at Oxford.

Actress Beryl Reid visited Birchfield to receive the television on behalf of Chiltern House. Miss Reid is a Patron of the Slough Spastics Welfare Society, one of the local voluntary groups in Bucks., Berks, and Oxon. who have combined to raise money for the Chiltern project.



Twelve-year-old spastic Ian Kemp comes in to win the shopping race of the first gymkhana held by the Handicapped Children's Unit of Odstock Hospital, Salisbury, at the Grovely Riding Stables, Wilton, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Every week, through the generosity of Miss Mick Clarke and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Clarke, the children from the unit that caters mainly for spastic and spina bifida children, enjoy an hour's riding at the stables. Thirteen of the children took part in the gymkhana in three series of five competitive items.

The event was organised by Miss Clarke and her helpers for the children under Miss Jean Nixon, teacher-in-charge of the unit.

Picture by Austin Underwood

## Spastic painter has first show

GARRY Conway a 31-year-old athetoid spastic and a former trainee of Southampton Work Centre, had his first one-man exhibition of paintings at the Hiscock Gallery, Southsea, Hampshire, starting on October 28th for a month. He has already sold a number of paintings and his ambition is to build up a career as a full-time artist.

Garry, who lives at home with his mother, first became interested in art while attending the Southampton Work Centre some years ago. At one time he trained as an engraver at the Society's Sherrards Training Centre, Old Welwyn, Herts, but was unable to continue

in this work as it proved too exacting for his eyesight.

After leaving the Southampton Work Centre, Gary went with the help of the local Spastics Association to Vickers-Armstrong in Southampton to work, but after four years he became redundant, and since then has had several short-term jobs.

Another effort of the young people has been to run a babysitting committee for the families of spastics, and they have

increased by about 40 per cent — a very fine record of difficulties overcome, especially at a time when unemployment is such a problem in the area.

Since many of the physically handicapped who are being helped come from some of the most troubled areas of Belfast, such a successful year's work reflects great credit both on the ingenuity of those who have to organise the transport service and the drivers who have been willing to make "business as usual during the emergency" their motto.

WORK for the handicapped in Northern Ireland has, inevitably, had its problems during the troubles of the past year or so, but it is tremendously encouraging to discover how cheerfully the work has been kept going in the face of all the difficulties of the present times.

For instance, minibus and taxi drivers for the Mitchell House School for physically handicapped children have had to risk the hazards of thrown stones and bottles, and



Pictured at the autumn fair organised entirely by the young people of the Coalville Group are Kevin Freeman, Susan Cobley, Alison Freeman, John Hill, Susan Horrobin, and Carol Thompson. Read about the young-in-heart local voluntary group in the story below.

## Coalville Group has the accent on youth

A FIFTEEN-year-old Coalville schoolboy, Kevin Freeman, personally visited every single shop and tradesman in the town and surrounding district in his spare time, to enlist their support for an effort by a group of Coalville young people to raise money for spastics.

He took with him a letter of authority from Mrs. Hinds, secretary of the Coalville Group of The Spastics Society, but the round of visits was entirely Kevin's own idea. And so successful was he in persuading these people to kindly donate goods, that the resulting autumn fair held at Coalville raised £133 for spastics.

The fair was organised entirely by the "teens and twenties" — a number of local young people who are helping

the Coalville Group with energy and enthusiasm. Besides gifts from local tradesmen, they spent months making soft toys and other things to sell at the Fair, they decorated the hall themselves, invited a local celebrity to come and open the function, and even remembered a buttonhole for him and a bouquet for his wife! Kevin Freeman, a pupil of Castlerock High School, Coalville overcame his shyness and made them a speech of welcome.

The autumn fair was the special effort of these young people but since Mr. David Rolleston — himself in his twenties — became chairman of the Coalville Group not much more than a year ago, the teen and twenties age groups have been more and more encouraged to play a really active part in the work of the Group. They began with serving coffee at committee meetings — but they didn't stop with that!

John Hill (fourth from left in the picture) is now, with Kevin (extreme left) actually a member of the Executive Committee of Coalville Group. Susan Cobley (second left) is the social secretary — she organises social evenings for spastics and their families, making all arrangements from finding a hall and organising refreshments to planning the programme and the transport. Nigel Dakin (not in picture) the chairman of the social committee is in his early twenties.

Another effort of the young people has been to run a babysitting committee for the families of spastics, and they have

also taken a share in the organising of "Shopping Sprees" for these families. The spastic children, plus their brothers and sisters, are looked after in a creche in a hired hall for four or five hours while a bus is laid on to take their parents into town.

For Firework Night — this year of course on November 4th — Coalville Group have been very busy organising a special evening at the Swanton Institute. Families are being brought in by coach to the Institute and in addition to a firework display there will be hot potatoes, hot sausages and other traditional Bonfire Night fare.

## Looking for pen friends

SPASTICS News has been asked to help find pen friends for:

Miss Edith Davis, a spastic aged 30, who would like to correspond with a young spastic man aged about 32, living in the London area if possible.

Her interests are pop music, television and cooking. She writes that although she can do most things for herself, she is unable to walk long distances. Her address is 142, Rommany Road, West Norwood, S.E.27.

David Blow, a chairbound spastic, who has been at Ponds Home since 1957, would like a pen friend aged between 20 and 30.

His hobbies are listening to records (pop and classical); road maps, current affairs and the Royal Family. He collects newspaper pictures to put in a scrapbook.

Please contact David at Ponds Home, Chalfont Road, Seer Green, Near Beaconsfield, Bucks.

If you are looking for a pen friend the International Correspondence Service (The United Kingdom branch of an official UNESCO organisation) will supply regular lists of pen friends all over the world.

Able-bodied members are asked to pay a small subscription in order to cover expenses but the service is provided free of charge to spastics and other handicapped people, provided that addresses are not passed on to anybody else.

Further details may be obtained from D. W. Kerlogue, P.O. Box 10, Matlock, Derbyshire.

Please send a large (foolscap at least) self-addressed envelope, with a 3p stamp attached.

## The day I met Doddy

While on holiday in Southport this year, I thought that as I wasn't far from Liverpool, I would go to Knotty Ash, where my favourite star, Ken Dodd, comes from, to see what it was like. I caught a train from Birkdale where I was staying to Liverpool Exchange, and then had a taxi from there to the centre of Liverpool. I then caught a bus to Knotty Ash, which took a quarter of an hour. I was really thrilled. It's not such a diddy place and it does exist.

After dinner I decided to go in Knotty Ash post office and get a card.

I wrote on this card and then made my way up the road to Ken Dodd's house, just to say I had walked past. If it wasn't for the young lady who helped me find the house I wouldn't have done what I did. She encouraged me to go to the door. I knocked on the door, and waited a bit, and then the door



was opened by a member of the family and I handed in the postcard. I was told to wait a bit, and then a few minutes later Ken Dodd came out and talked to me. I had my photograph taken with him but it didn't come out. Nevertheless, that made my day and holiday as well.

Just because I am a spastic that doesn't stop me from leading a normal life, and if I've made my mind up to do something nothing will stand in my way.

From Miss I. MacDonald, Member of Gloucester Group, 9, Smallbrook Road, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

## Jean's letter made OUR day

Hello, dear Editor,

Please can you tell me how much a year's subscription to Spastics News will be.

I have just come back from a lovely holiday at Bedfont Spastics Hotel, Clacton-on-Sea, which I enjoyed very much.

I am very happy in this nice hospital and I have lots of hobbies which includes letter writing and reading.

Best wishes for every success to Spastics News.

Yours happily,  
Jean Craig,  
Hodges Ward,  
Townlands Hospital,  
Henley-on-Thames,  
Oxfordshire.

The answer, dear Jean, is 60p a year. Send your order to the Circulation Clerk, Spastics News, 12 Park Crescent, London, W1N 4EQ. And thanks for your good wishes.

## Thanks, Vicar

I WAS wondering if you could spare a little space in your Spastics News paper to thank the Rev. Derek Tansill for the wonderful holiday that I spent at St. Nicholas Vicarage, Saltdean, Brighton, and to thank all his helpers, they were wonderful.

Please also thank Manchester Cripples Help for paying my train fare to London.

Miss Lucy Flynn,  
Tan-y Bryn Home,  
St. George Road,  
Abergele,  
North Wales.

## Troubled times, but work goes on in Northern Ireland

the hurling of verbal threats, but have carried on gamely. Although some outings for the children, especially around last Christmas or where cross-town travel was involved, had to be cancelled, on the whole both staff and day children have managed to overcome the difficulties of travelling to and from school.

Similarly at the Balmoral Work Centre (run by the Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic Development, from whose annual report these facts are taken), the work of helping young people progress to various types of employment has gone on despite all the disturbances of the present day, and has even in-



members. Of course, he doesn't have to go round 900 people every week — neighbours collect from each other so that he can pick up many subscriptions from one point. But there's still an awful lot of walking to do, particularly now that E.14 has become a complex of tower blocks, interspersed by subways. There are no short cuts.

He's out most nights of the week, and during the daytime on Saturdays and Sundays. "I've always had an open air life and I like to keep it that way" he said.

Generally speaking, he "tours" for about two hours a night, though it's a longer shift on Friday nights. His members have had two sizeable wins, one for £250, another for £150, and many have won gifts or smaller amounts.

George Hilsdon, 50, has been a collector for 13 years and has over 700 members. Like George Blancke, he's a native of this area and, again like George Blancke, has the cheerful personality for which East Enders are famous. His members regard him as one of the family and this, he says, is what makes this part-time job so worth while.

"Families are growing up right under your eyes, the little girl you patted on the head when you first called to collect is married now with kids of her own.

"You hear about their worries and troubles, in fact you're one of the family. It really gets you" he said.

I went with him to see Mrs. June Green and her 15-year-old son Paul, a fine boy who was born a spastic and has only partial use of his legs.

His mother has been a Pool member for years, and has won some gifts. Paul attends a local school and is going on to a training college for leather workers in Wales. He loves reading, and likes to work with his hands. What would he do if their number came up? "Buy some more books" he said.

Derek Young and his wife Ellen who have two children, Tania, 12, and Reggie, 8, knew what they would do if they had a big win. Said Mr. Young: "I would buy a place of our own, like I've always wanted to."

I met Ronald Watts, his wife Kathleen, and their children Lisa, 9, and Peter, aged 2. They have won gifts and a premium bond, and have been members for 12 years. Mr. Watts knows all about collecting—he does it



Mr. Blancke has a friendly word with Denise and John Bridgen and their mother. Collectors quickly become "one of the family". Below: Tower blocks like this give the E.14 area a futuristic look, but the traditional generosity of the people doesn't change.

himself, for one of the big national pool firms.

A long standing pool member is Mrs. Vera Collins whose 12-year-old daughter Susan, an only child, is going to the Beatrice Tate School for handicapped children in Bethnal Green. George Blancke has been collecting from Mrs. Collins for the past eight years, and both are hoping that soon now he'll bring her news of a bumper win.

Henry and Barbara Wosahlo and their 10-year-old son Dennis, and Ernest and Brenda Bridgen and their children Denise, 8, and John, 4, had all won gifts and the Wosahlos had won "a nice holiday" as well, after 10 years' membership.

It was great to meet them and I hope they'll all soon be on the receiving end at one of those presentations of big prizes that Norman Fry organises, coaxing along a local celebrity to ensure valuable coverage in the local Press.



## Death of Admiral Bingley a sad loss to the Society

EVERYONE who has the welfare of the handicapped — and many other good causes — at heart will sorrow at the sudden death of Admiral Sir Alexander Bingley, G.C.B., O.B.E., who was Secretary of the Sembal Trust from 1964.

Representatives of the Trust and The Spastics Society attended the funeral service at St. Paul's Church, Hoddesdon, Herts. on October 3rd, following the Admiral's death on September 28th.

Sir Alexander, who joined the Navy as a cadet in September 1918, had a most distinguished career in naval aviation, and in 1952 became Commanding Officer of H.M.S. Eagle, then Britain's largest and newest aircraft carrier. He was promoted to flag rank in January 1954. Perhaps the most distinguished of the many important appointments he held during his naval career was that of Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, from 1959 to 1961.

General Sir Richard Gale, who was Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, from 1958-60, wrote an appreciation of Admiral Bingley in The Times in these terms: "His ability was harnessed to a charming personality which enabled him to ride a difficult situation on a tight rein. All this was at a time when things were by no means easy. He was as welcome and his ability appreciated as much at Supreme Allied Headquarters as it was in his own command. There are those who are fortunate enough to combine efficiency with a charm of

manner; but it is a rare gift. Admiral Bingley possessed it to a marked degree."

Admiral Bingley was too energetic, and had too lively a social conscience to accept a quiet life after his retirement from the "silent service" and in 1964 he became Secretary of the Sembal Trust, the organisation set up three years earlier to make grants to organisations helping people of all ages suffering poverty, deprivation, loneliness, sickness, mental or physical handicap or doing research to alleviate these problems. It was a development of the



Admiral Sir Alexander Bingley, G.C.B., O.B.E.

## Tributes to man of "good humour and humanity"

Sir Godfrey Agnew, Chairman of the Sembal Trust writes:

The sudden and unexpected death of Admiral Sir Alexander Bingley will be mourned by his countless friends. All who had the privilege of knowing him will feel a deep sense of personal loss.

His tact, his wise counsel and advice, his unfailing good humour and courtesy to everyone will be sorely missed. He will be remembered with real and lasting affection by all the Trustees of the Sembal Trust who are very conscious of the outstanding contribution which, after a distinguished Naval career, he made over the years to the work of the Trust.

Admiral Bingley leaves a widow and three children to whom every sympathy goes in their present sorrow.

Mr. Douglas Arter, Chairman of Top Ten Promotions Ltd., and a founder of the Sembal Trust:

The passing of Sir Alexander Bingley was mourned by all who knew him, and particularly by the trustees of the Sembal Trust.

During his period of office as Secretary of the Trust, well over a million

pounds was distributed to many diverse causes. Realising as he did, that the funds of the Trust come from the voluntary donations of the members of the Spastics Competition, he was particularly concerned that any appeals emanating from supervisors, collectors and members, should be given particular attention by the trustees at their meetings.

A man of compassion and with a wide circle of contacts, he was able to sift the many applications for monetary assistance from the Trust, and his guidance at meetings made these occasions so much easier for the trustees. We shall miss him greatly.

Mr. William Burn, Chairman of the Executive Council of The Spastics Society and a Sembal Trustee writes:

The Sembal Trust has for eight and a half years had the benefit of Alec Bingley's services as Secretary. His human and friendly approach, coupled with a very warm personality and sense of humour, enabled him to carry out admirably his duties for the Trust. He made our job easier and helped the Trustees to try and do the maximum good in the charitable field with our limited

financial resources. We shall miss him very much indeed and our deepest sympathy goes to Lady Bingley and his family.

Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society writes:

Admiral Sir Alexander Bingley's death, entirely unexpected as it was, came as a great shock to the staff at Park Crescent. Although the Sembal Trust is a quite separate and independent organisation it has been housed by The Spastics Society for some years and Alexander Bingley became, as it were, an honorary member of the Society's staff. He was a highly intelligent man and one who was able to go quickly to the heart of any matter, and making decisions worried him not one whit.

Quite apart from his great ability he was also a man of great humanity and humour. I think he found that his work for Sembal, although important and interesting, did not stretch him in the way to which he was accustomed and it was a great pity that the Sembal income fell so drastically in the last few years, thus reducing the scope of his work.

He will be greatly missed by all who worked with him.

Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, is pictured with "Mother and Child," a valuable and highly original work by Jean Gibson which the sculptress has given to the Society. The sculpture, cast in copper plated concrete, will be displayed at one of the Society's schools.

"This is a most generous gift of a most imaginative, pleasing sculpture," said Mr. Loring. "It is fresh and new in concept, and we think it will have a great appeal to children."

## Luckily, the harvest was home

ON Sunday, October 22, an unusual service took place at a most unusual church—St. Peter's, Haveringland, Norfolk, which serves a small isolated parish with barely 100 residents and not much more than a dozen regular Sunday worshippers. To add to its unusual quality, the church stands all by itself bang in the middle of a field of corn!

Yet on the Sunday in question it was the scene of an extremely large and well attended service of Harvest Thanksgiving, a service which this church in recent years has combined with a special service for spastics.

The High Sheriff of Norfolk, Mr. Richard Winch, read the lessons, and the offertory was divided between the church itself and the Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association.

People who attended the service said they managed to reach the church without difficulty—"But it might not have been so easy before the cornfield was harvested."



## Independence aim at centre for young disabled

NEW buildings for the National Star Centre for Disabled Youth at Ullenwood Manor, near Cheltenham, were officially opened by the Duchess of Kent recently.

The Duchess is Patron of The Spastics Society.

The centre exists to help physically handicapped school-leavers meet the demands of vocational training and employment by providing them with academic and social opportunities for their self-development.

There are now 61 students who are resident, compared

ing accommodation is kept to a domestic scale and separate from the teaching areas which are confined to the manor.

There are 48 study bedrooms housed in four linked octagonal blocks which harmonise in materials and proportion with Ullenwood Manor and its rural setting in a fold of the Cotswold Hills, four miles south of Cheltenham.

John Laing Construction built the new accommodation in just over eight months under a contract awarded by Truth Research Foundation, the charitable trust which owns Ullenwood Manor.

with 15 when the centre was opened in 1967.

The latest development is intended to encourage independence and avoid the creation of an institutional atmosphere. Students have their own rooms planned with a variety of furnishing layouts to allow for individual expression. Their liv-

## GLIDING IDEA FLIES HIGH ON WINGS OF ENTHUSIASM

MANY people who read in last month's Spastics News the story of Fred Loggins of Holbeach Drove, who has become a qualified glider pilot, must have asked themselves 'Could other spastics achieve this too?'

Another step in winning the freedom of the air for disabled people came when a party of 10 men and women, aged 18-28, from John Groom's Homes at Edgware, spent a whole day at Dunstable down as

guests of the London Gliding Club. Seven of them actually took short flights of 15-20 minutes, and in the bright sunny weather found it an unforgettable experience to soar above the ground. Every member of the group is severely disabled and normally confined to a wheelchair.

The general reaction of everyone, both Gliding Club members and the visitors, was 'Why on earth didn't anyone think of this idea before?' says Mr. Donald Harwood, of the John Groom's organisation.

The inspiration first came

when Mr. Harwood, who lives near Dunstable, watched the gliding club activities, and suddenly realised that it was probably easier to get a disabled person into a glider than into a public convenience. "So many things a disabled person doesn't do, are not because they can't, but because we often just don't shape our minds to envisage the possibilities."

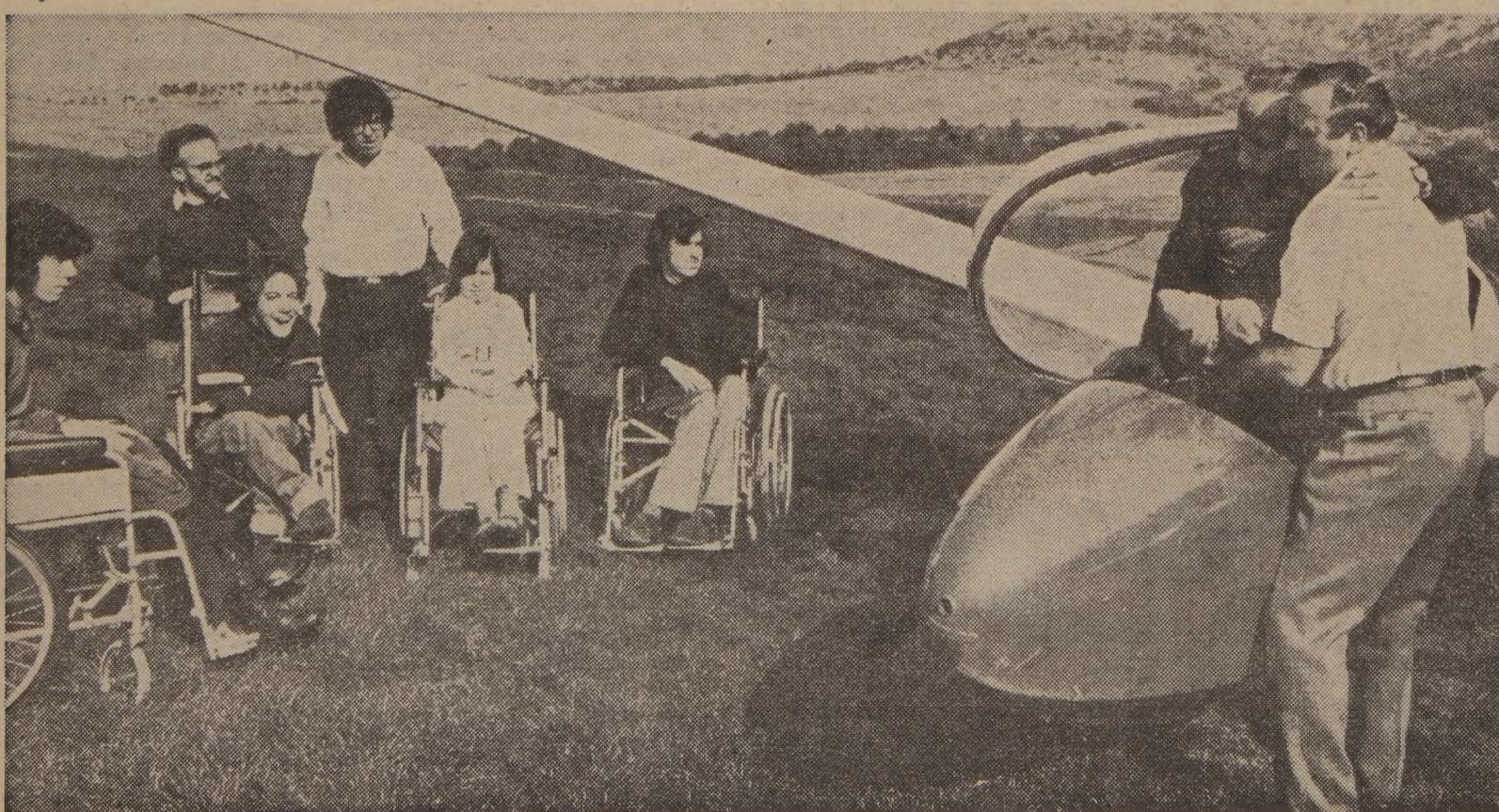
The London Gliding Club members co-operated enthusiastically in the idea and were tremendously helpful when the great day came. Before that, the whole thing had been put to the residents at the Edgware home, who reacted with enthusiasm, especially when the legless pilot, Douglas

Bader, visited them and told them: "Gliding is marvellous—I've had a go myself quite recently."

Among the party visiting Dunstable was Anthony Clark, an athetoid spastic. He was unable to fly as the problems for anyone subject to a spasm or jerk are at this stage too great. But he greatly enjoyed the outing and watching his friends fly.

"It was delightful to see the response of the whole party," said Mr. Harwood.

Picture shows Mr. Arthur Agar, 28, being lifted into the cockpit by Mr. John Jefferies, an instructor.



## The convivial way to help the cause

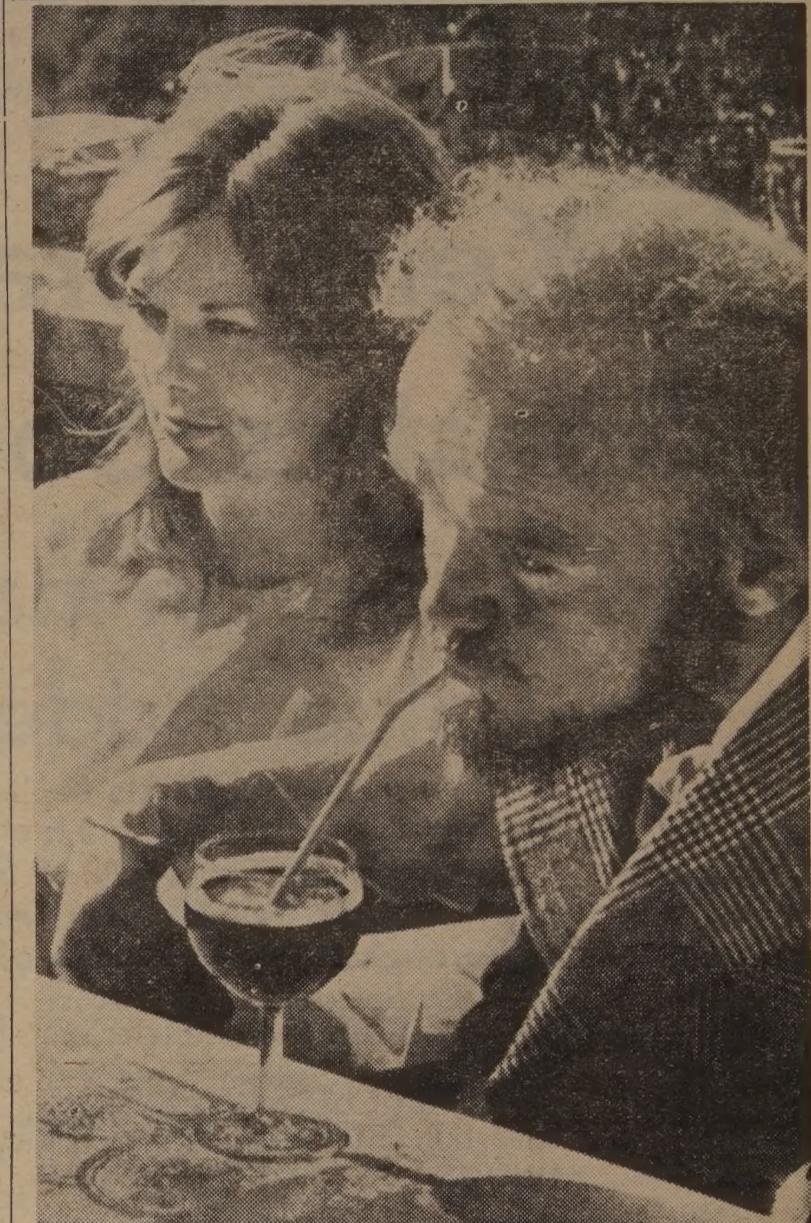
CITY businessmen can expect a convivial lunch-hour on Wednesday, 8th November, when a wine-tasting is to be held in aid of The Spastics Society, at the Saddlers' Hall, home of one of London's historic livery companies.

Over 250 leading personalities from the merchant banks, Lloyds, the Stock Exchange, shipping firms, the legal profession and other City interests have been invited to take part, at a cost of £4 a head.

The tasting has been arranged by four well-known London wine merchants—Berry Bros. and Rudd, Corney and Barrow, Mayor Sworler and Jackson's of Piccadilly.

The tasting notes are being written by Michael Broadbent, wine director of Christie's, who is also helping in an advisory capacity.

Proceeds from the event will go towards the annual running costs of £27,000 needed by the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre in Fitzroy Square.



A new chapter in the life of spastic author Christy Brown was written when he married 30-year-old Mary Carr in a Dublin Register Office.

The couple were first introduced when Christy appeared on the David Frost TV show. Irish-born Mary, who was living in London at the time and working as a dentist's receptionist, had been given tickets for the show and, having met Christy afterwards, she said: "I was greatly taken with his good humour."

### 21 YEARS ON AT PLYMOUTH

THREE founder-members of the Plymouth and S.W. Devon Spastics Association who have served as officers of the Association during the whole of its 21 years' existence, were among those present at an anniversary dinner at the Continental Hotel, Plymouth.

They were Mr. K. C. Wyatt (chairman), Mrs. R. Bailey and Mrs. R. Brenton. In his speech, Mr. Wyatt referred to the obstacles which faced the Association over the years, and of how they had been successfully overcome, with the result that the area now has a Spastics Centre second to none in the country.

Among the 65 members and guests present were Dame Joan Vickers, M.P., and Col. Jefferson, who spoke on behalf of The Spastics Society.

Christy was born severely disabled 39 years ago, one of a large family in a Dublin slum. His early life was a remarkable story of triumph over the dual handicaps of poverty and cerebral palsy.

He first became known as a writer with the publication of his autobiography "My Left Foot" in 1954. This was later followed by the best-selling novel "Down All the Days," which quickly established him as one of Ireland's foremost modern writers.

The bride and groom are pictured during their wedding reception at the Sutton House Hotel, Dublin.

Picture by United Press International Ltd.

CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPIST interested in working with a closely integrated team and keen to work in the latest group therapy methods with cerebrally palsied children. Whitley Council scales and opportunities to attend relevant conferences and courses. Single accommodation available. School holidays. APPLY: Headmistress, Ingfield Manor School, Five Oaks, Billingshurst, Sussex.



Sir Keith Joseph was very popular with the children when he toured the Phoenix Centre on official opening day. PICTURE ABOVE LEFT shows him with Andrew Lumsden, aged six, who is being taught by occupational therapist Sylvia Walster how to operate a Post-sum-controlled typewriter. Watching with interest are, Mr. William Burn, Chairman of the Executive Council of The Spastics Society; Mr. R. C. Millward, Bromley Hospitals



Group Secretary, and Mr. Roman Halter, architect of the centre. CENTRE PICTURE shows Sir Keith having a friendly word with eight-year-old Dennis Soile, and nursery student Janet Macdonald, PICTURE RIGHT shows four-year-old jigsaw puzzle enthusiasts Matthew Cotter and Joanna Beasley who happily interrupted their game for a chat with the eminent but so-friendly visitor to their playroom.



# Sir Keith praises the 'remarkable' Spastics Society – and Chairman makes plea on Value Added Tax

**The need for an increasing emphasis on 'team effort' to pioneer projects and improve services for the handicapped, was stressed by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Social Services, when he opened the new Phoenix Day Centre for spastic children at Farnborough, Kent, at the end of September.**

The Centre, built by The Spastics Society at a capital cost of over £50,000, and run and maintained by the Bromley Group Hospital Management Committee, with the London Borough of Bromley being responsible for the education of the children, was, said Sir Keith, an excellent example of joint co-operation in action.

"I marvel at the range of services we have got in this country" said Sir Keith, "while at the same time I marvel at those we haven't got. As we meet one lot of needs, so another lot swim into our ken."

**"This is what has happened to The Spastics Society, which is indeed a remarkable organisation. They are educators; a pressure group; and fund-raisers. In**

**deed, they are brilliant squeezers of the public purse".**

**Mr. William Burn, Chairman of the Executive Council of The Spastics Society, formally handed over the building to the Hospital Management Committee.**

**He said: "I am especially glad that the Phoenix is a centre for children because The Spastics Society is convinced that we need more services for the young cerebral**

**palsied child and more particularly for those under five years of age.**

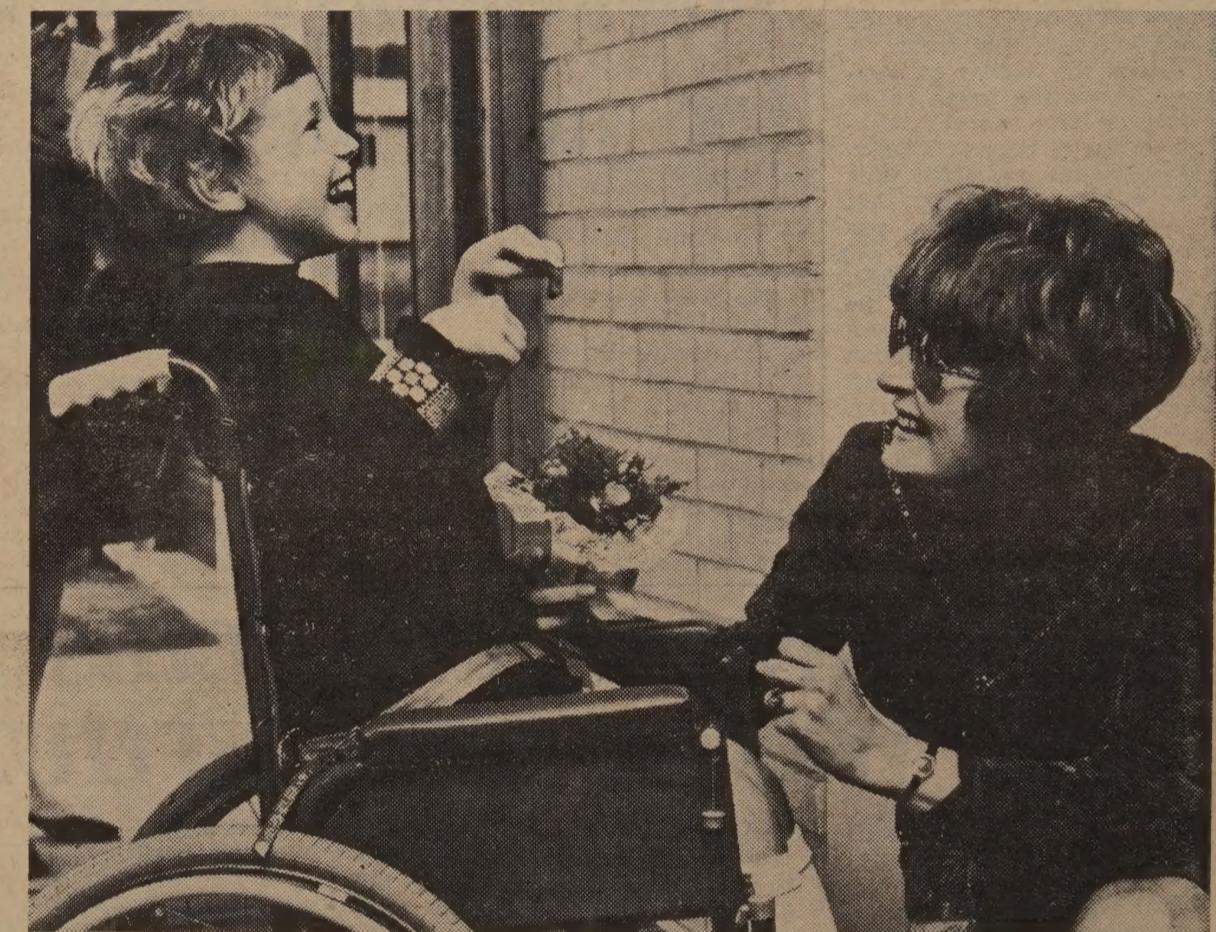
**"In due course some of the children from this centre will be able to attend normal schools because of the treatment, education and training they receive at this early age. Eventually some will be able to take their places in the community with jobs in open employment."**

## Special need

**The magnitude of the problem was emphasised, said Mr. Burn, by local surveys which showed that up to nine per cent of nursery-aged children needed special nursery facilities because of physical, mental or other handicap.**

**He was particularly glad that the Phoenix was a day centre where the children attending would have greater opportunities for independence and integration into the everyday life of their own families and that of the local community.**

**Mr. Burn drew a spontaneous outburst of applause from the audience when he said: "In addition to much more fin-**



**ancial and practical help from the Statutory Authorities it is vital that the Government alters the fiscal climate in relation to charities so that more money can be raised from the public for use by charities such as ourselves.**

## "Astonishing"

**"We welcomed this year's Finance Act with its concessions regarding Estate Duty and Capital Gains Tax on charities, but much of these benefits will be negated by consideration not being given to us regarding Value Added Tax.**

**"Charities and Local Authorities perform many similar services and we should, therefore, be relieved from any liability to VAT in the same way**

**as Local Authorities. The total amount of VAT involved is estimated at £1½ million. This is a negligible sum for the Government but of vital concern to charities. There is still time for this astonishing act of omission to be rectified."**

**Proposing a vote of thanks to Sir Keith Joseph, Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, pointed out that many severely handicapped spastic adults were still living in subnormality hospitals or unsuitable institutions. He called upon all Local Authorities to take immediate action to provide appropriate forms of community care. The Department of Health had already taken cautious steps to change the pattern of care for these people, but unless Local Auth-**

**orities played their part, much would be in vain.**

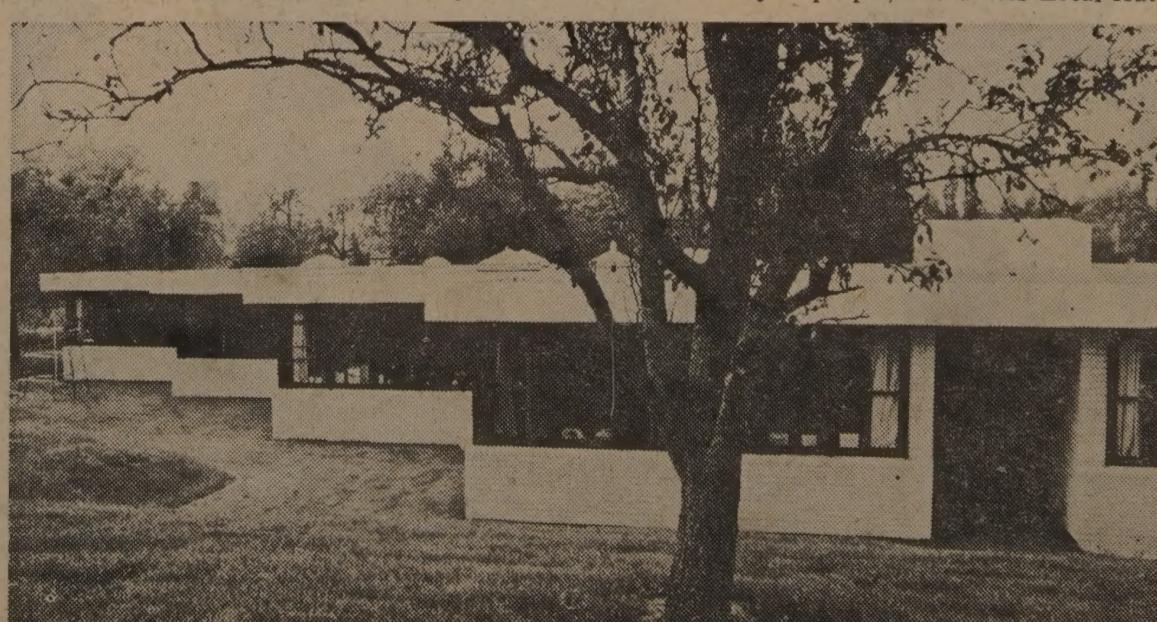
**Mr. Loring paid a warm tribute to Sir Keith Joseph when he said: "Those of us who have made the cause of handicapped a life's work have a particular regard for the present Secretary of State and are encouraged and heartened by the knowledge that he combines qualities of integrity, high intelligence, great ability and human compassion, and that he possesses these qualities to a rare extent in a politician."**

**Dr. Clive Upjohn, Consultant Paediatrician to the Phoenix Centre, seconded the vote of thanks. The Rt. Rev. H. David Halsey, Bishop of Tonbridge, said a prayer of blessing.**

**The fund-raising campaign to meet the capital cost of Phoenix was launched under the Chairmanship of a well-known businessman, Mr. Edward Drewery, generously assisted by the efforts of a parent organisation, The Friends of the Phoenix Centre, under the present Chairman, Mr. J. Martin Wallace, and the former Chairman, Mr. Peter Leverton. So far, £28,000 towards the total of £50,000 has been raised, £10,000 of which was a gift from Mr. Edward Drewery.**



On their way to tour the Phoenix Centre are, pictured from left to right, Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, Mr. Burn, Sir Keith, Mr. Edward Drewery, Campaign Chairman, Phoenix Centre Appeal, Mr. Millward, and Mr. Halter. PICTURE RIGHT shows the exterior of the imaginatively designed centre.



Eric Greenwood's novel ideas have helped raise thousands of pounds for the Halifax and District Spastics Society. His devoted work was praised by the Halifax Evening Courier which dubbed him: "King of the fund raisers," and told of his efforts in a special article.

IF anyone can lay claim to the title King of the Fund Raisers it is surely Eric Greenwood, appeals secretary and founder member of Halifax and District Spastics Society. Over the years Mr. Greenwood and his team of helpers have developed fund raising techniques to a fine art, regaling us with a variety of bizarre stunts designed to raise money—lots of money—for spastics.

The record shows that such dedicated exercises have almost without exception proved highly effective. Since the Halifax Society was formed in 1953 about £45,000 has been raised by a team which must be the envy of many charities—indeed, whose go-getting methods have been copied by other local fund raisers.

#### AWARD

So it cannot really have surprised anyone, with the exception of Mr. Greenwood, when he was awarded the Harold Brooksby Memorial Trophy and Prize in 1968 for his outstanding work for charity.

Far from resting on his laurels, though, he is still going strong and even now is pondering on ways and means of raising a record

### Spastic helped Londonderry youngsters

THE Colchester Branch of International Voluntary Service has organised a camp for 50 children from war-torn Londonderry. The children came from both Catholic and Protestant homes.

The project also involved raising £900 to pay for the fortnight's holiday.

The man chiefly responsible for inspiring and organising the camp was spastic Bernard Brett, secretary of the Colchester branch of IVS. Mr. Brett is confined to a wheelchair and communicates by means of a letter-board.

#### Beautiful idea

THE pig which is helping to raise money for the Shropshire Spastics Society has now been christened Beauty.

This name was chosen after readers of a Shrewsbury newspaper were invited to send in suggestions.

Appropriately enough "Beauty" was put forward by 12-year-old Julie Pearce, daughter of the farmer who gave the pig to the Group.

The proceeds from all Beauty's litters will be donated to spastics.

A CHARITY shop, open for eight days, has made a profit of £370 for the Birkenhead Spastic Teenagers Club. It was run by Mrs. Sybil Evans, chairman of the club.

## Stunts galore — and every one a winner

£1,000 next year—which haul would be an agreeable way of celebrating 20 years as the Halifax Society's chief fund raiser.

"It will have to be something extra-special, something no one has ever thought of before," he says. One feels that if anyone can devise such a stunt it is Eric Greenwood.

After all, his list of past successes is impressive, every one a moneyspinner.

• There was the stunt which cashed in on the "Three Coins in the Fountain" film—"We invited people to throw coins in a fountain and make a wish. They did. We raised about £200."

• Then there was a ladies' soccer match—"quite a do" and a ladies' rugby match—"very hectic, that one." And lucrative.

• Nor is Halifax likely to forget in a hurry the Great Pram Pushing Marathon in which a team of stalwarts pursued the world pram pushing record and picked up a lot of money for spastics on the way.

• Then there was that famous occasion when the punters of Halifax were persuaded to put their money on a horse called Julie. Could she pull a cart seven miles round the town? And how long would it take her? A lot of money rode with her—and it went to the spastics.

• Add to these stunts a flag day, special efforts at various charity galas, and numerous other fund-raising ideas and activities, and it can be seen that the spastic fund-raisers, led by Mr. Greenwood, lack neither energy nor imagination.

For the past few years a holiday draw scheme devised by Mr. Greenwood has proved lucrative. This involves a lively team of gentlemen attired in outrageous "drag" invading local clubs and pubs—it having been first ascertained that such an invasion is acceptable—to sell draw tickets to startled customers.

#### TEAMWORK

"We go out for several weeks and always have a lot of fun. It pulls in the money,

too. We made more than £600 this year."

Mr. Greenwood emphasises that teamwork does the trick.

"These things can only succeed if you have a good team of helpers. We have the best. They really are a grand crowd. So are all our helpers. They do a marvellous volunteer job giving up their spare time and working really hard."

Mr. Greenwood works hard, too. Not because he's a "do-gooder," but because he enjoys making money for a cause which needs, and deserves it.

"I get a kick out of fund-raising, always have done, even before the spastics," he confesses. "Nothing gives me more pleasure than to see the cash roll in. That's what it's all about. I think there was one occasion when we broke even and didn't make anything. But all our other efforts have made money and we're proud of that. We have to keep at it, though. We need about £5,000 a year to finance the spastics' workshop in Halifax."

He has nothing but praise for the generosity of Halifax people. "I think this must be one of the most generous towns in the country. Folk here have always been ready to help. For instance, you might have thought that with

all the redundancies and things, money would have been tighter this year. But when we went round the pubs and clubs people gave more generously than ever. It was very heartening."

#### WELCOME

"Mind you, we always make a point of thanking people for their contributions and letting them see where the cash goes. Anyone can have a balance sheet, and people are welcome to visit the workshop to see what kind of things we do there."

Mr. Greenwood has a son, Stephen, who is employed in the spastics' workshop.

"Perhaps I put a little extra into the fund-raising efforts because I can see my own lad enjoying himself at the workshop and I know what a good job they do."

#### PAUL BRACEGIRDLE

Picture and story by courtesy of Halifax Evening Courier.



Mr. Eric Greenwood

## Disabled test and choose the right mixers

HANDICAPPED people who have not been able to make a cake for years, found they could do so with food mixers they tested for the Research Institute for Consumer Affairs. The RICA tests were designed to search out the problems that confront people with different handicaps when they use a mixer, and to find out which mixers were easiest and most comfortable to assemble, use and dismantle.

Only one mixer—the Kenwood Mini—was rated as completely acceptable on the tests, and was convenient to use both as a hand-held model and a table-model. The Sunbeam was convenient as a table model and the Moulinex Marvel was also convenient if the beaters were kept permanently fitted and washed in the bowl provided.

The tests showed that most of the machines were awkward for most handicapped people to use. Obviously particular handicaps affected how easy it was to carry out each test, and RICA advises the disabled and arthritic to watch the following points before deciding on the model that will be easiest and most comfortable:

- Make sure the switch is large, easily accessible, and not too stiff.
- Avoid models with a central spindle.
- Avoid models with a catch that has to be released to tilt back the drive unit.
- Look for models in which the drive unit can be fitted with one hand.
- Look for models with a light bowl.
- Make sure the button or lever for ejecting the beaters is not too stiff.

The report on mixers is available from the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases, Vincent House, 1a Springfield Road, Horsham, Sussex.

### Boys walked the Pennines for money

Andrew Smallwood and Malcolm Ross of Huddersfield recently walked 200 miles of the Pennine Way to raise money for charity.

The two boys, both pupils of Wrekin College, Shrewsbury, collected £200 from sponsors. The money will be divided between the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund and the West Midland Spastics Society.

At Eastbourne, an exhibition and sale of paintings by Sussex artists raised £665 for spastics.

## Musical night out in aid of the Possum people

MANY of our readers will be aware of the invaluable help which Possum equipment gives to some of the most severely disabled members of the community. On Friday, 3rd November, at 7.30 p.m. there will be a concert in the Royal Albert Hall, London, in aid of Possum.

The concert will be given by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor Sir Ad-

rian Boult, and will include Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 in E flat—the soloist being the celebrated pianist Gina Bachauer. The rest of the programme consists of Glinka's Overture—Russian and Luddilla, and Schubert's Symphony No. 9 in C major.

The tickets, which are obtainable from the Royal Albert Hall (01-589-8212) and usual agents are priced at £2, £1.50, £1, 75p and 40p (unreserved). It is hoped that, as an additionally interesting feature of this concert, Hilary Pole—"the most paralysed person in Britain," will be present. Miss Pole is completely dependent on Possum equipment to carry on her busy life as a writer and editor of the Possum magazine. Her book, which tells her own story, is due to be published soon.

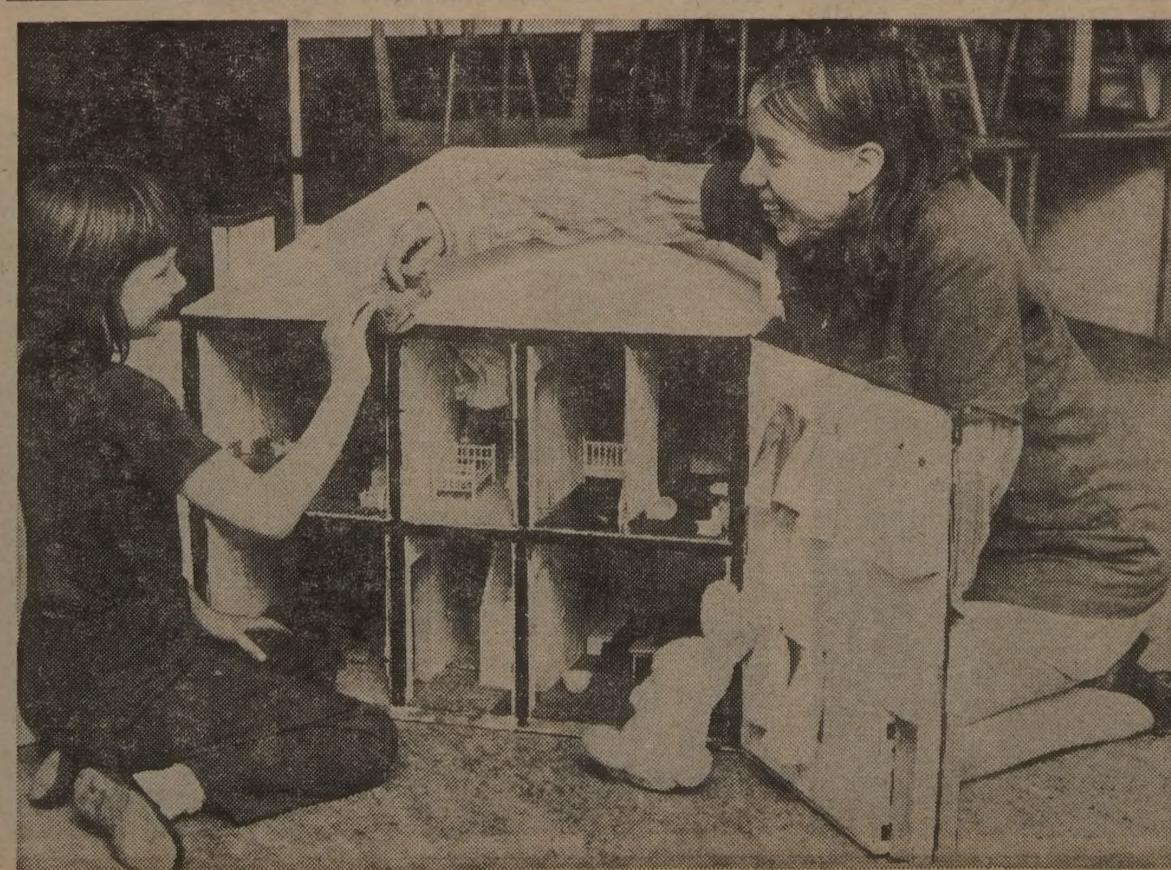
Janet Rees and Joyce Mills from the Medway Towns Spastics Centre at Gillingham, Kent, inspect one of the dolls houses made by boys at Rochester Borstal.

As part of their training the boys make special furniture and toys for the centre—mostly small tables and chairs.

Children from the centre and their mothers are invited to visit the Borstal each time a new batch of equipment is ready so that the toys and furniture can be thoroughly tested before delivery.

The Borstal authorities feel that this type of work helps the boys in their care just as much as the spastic children benefit from being on the receiving end.

Picture by courtesy of Kent Evening Post.



# Mother: "It really helps to know somebody cares"



Stuart Ryder of Cardiff loved the centre's playroom which has just been carpeted and stocked with new toys by the girls of Garratt Green School, Burntwood Lane, London, S.W.17. Below: Regional Social Worker, Miss A. M. Davey, and Miss Margaret Morgan, Head of Social Work and Employment, with a family in the kitchen available for visitors

## A family affair

**T**WENTY years of experience has taught The Spastics Society that parents of spastic children often feel alone and isolated with their problems. Mothers who bear the unremitting burden of caring for a heavily handicapped youngster are usually tied to the home as a result, and have little opportunity for gaining the information that could help with their child's development, or simply meeting other parents coping with similar difficulties.

But a trouble shared can, for some people, be a trouble halved, and as part of its supportive work for parents, the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre organised a residential week-end for families at Fitzroy Square, London, in October.

In the happy, relaxed, and strictly non-institutional atmosphere of the centre, the families — and their non-handicapped children were there too — met the experts, saw informative Society films and perhaps, most important of all, made the sort of instant friendships only possible with people who have an insight and sympathy for your problems because they mirror their own.

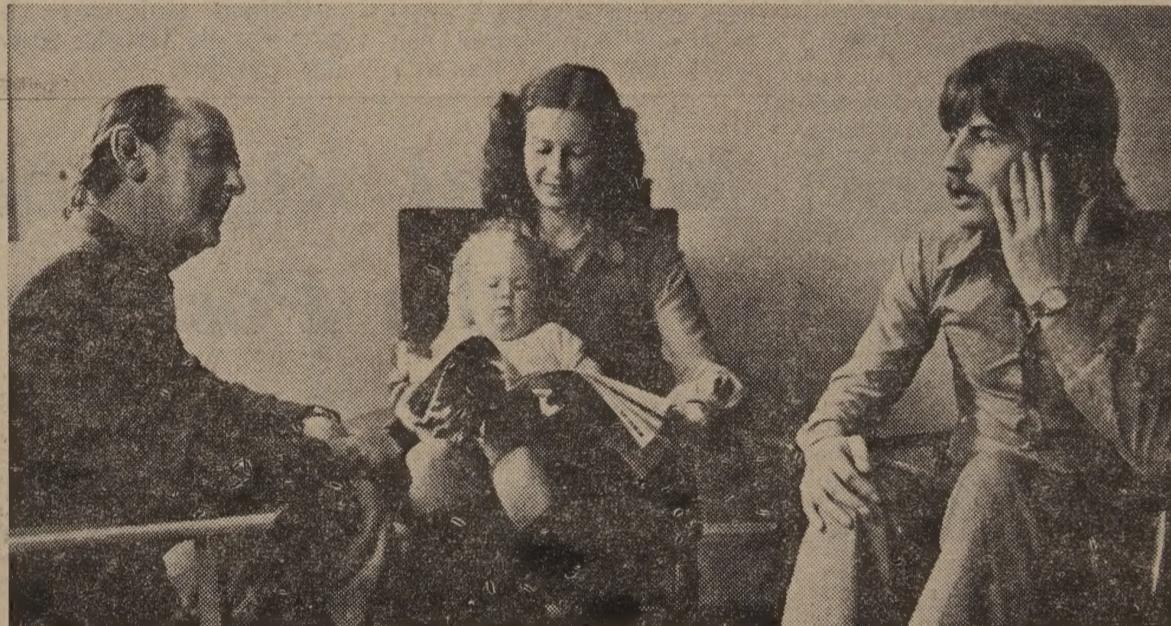
Mike and Sue Ryder, a couple in their early twenties from Cardiff, came with their 13-month-old son Stuart. They told Spastics News that they knew the week-end would prove of value to them for many months ahead. "We have learnt a lot, and we are going home to think it all over. Week-ends like this are a great idea."

Mr. Michael O'Riley, his wife Pauline, their teenage daughter, and spastic son Timothy, aged five, thought the journey from the Midlands had been more than worthwhile. They were full of praise for the practical information about helpful aids for day-to-day care, and had valued comparing notes with other parents. "And," said Mr. O'Riley, thoughtfully, "listening to other people's problems makes you understand your own a bit better."

Wendy and David Goodman said the visit to the centre from their home in Walsall had been a particular pleasure because they and their spastic daughter Susan, aged three, and their younger child Christopher, were rarely able to go out together as a family. Said Wendy: "I have been given a lot of helpful information, I have met some very nice people, and I feel that others understand the difficulties of looking after a handicapped child. It's easy to feel very isolated, you know, and it really helps to know that somebody cares."



The attractive gardens at Fitzroy Square always provide a magnet for the families, and the picture above shows a party enjoying the sun with (centre) Miss Liz Gronert, assistant housekeeper. Picture below shows Dr. Donald Gough with Sue and Mike Ryder and their baby son Stuart.



Above: Voluntary helper Miss Margaret Regali with Timothy O'Riley. Because of the work of helpers like Miss Regali, the parents were able to enjoy a relaxing break.

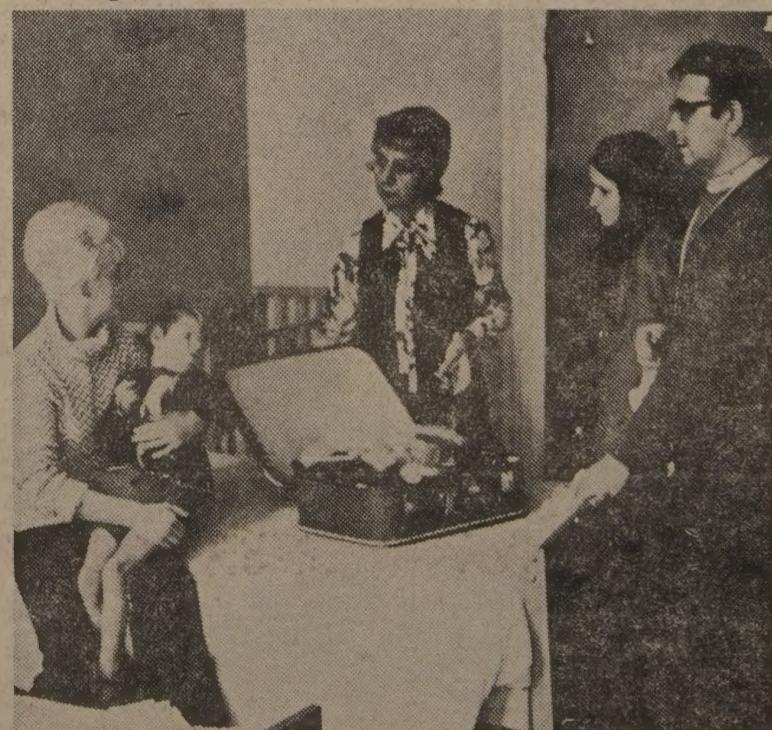


Thousands of meals are served every year at the Fitzroy Square centre as it attracts many visitors from home and overseas as well as providing a base for special courses and London holidays for spastics. In the picture below, the Goodman family are served by Margaret Regali who gave up her spare time to help voluntarily at the weekend.



When families visit the Fitzroy Square centre their non-handicapped children always come along as well. In the picture above, teenager Pauline O'Riley makes friends with Christopher.

The bedrooms at the Centre have been planned with homely comfort in mind, and there are plenty of willing hands available to help look after children so that the parents — so often tied to the 24-hour task of looking after a heavily-handicapped spastic — can really relax. In the picture below, housekeeper Mrs. M. Flower welcomes the O'Riley family.



Above: Miss Sorel Samme usually works at the Cheyne Walk Centre for spastic children but she came at the weekend to help.